

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Extends condolences to the family of U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Powell upon his death in Afghanistan.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Matthew Powell upon his death in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Matthew Powell was a native of Slidell, Louisiana, growing up there, receiving his education there and being an active member of the Grace Memorial Baptist Church from his Sunday school days until he joined the United States Army in 2008 after high school; and

WHEREAS, before he departed for the military, Matthew Powell told the congregation how grateful he was to have the church in his life and what a difference he felt it had made to him personally; and

WHEREAS, after his basic combat training, Specialist Powell was stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, where he was a motor transport operator, assigned to Company A, 526<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, of the legendary 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault); and

WHEREAS, Specialist Powell trained hard and sharpened his military skills as he and his fellow soldiers prepared for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, where the Global War On Terror was heating up; and

1           WHEREAS, Specialist Powell was acutely aware of the constant danger involved  
2           with participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, and this danger was brought home to him  
3           first hand when a roadside explosive device destroyed the Humvee he was riding in, killing  
4           everyone inside but him; and

5           WHEREAS, as Specialist Powell recovered from his injuries sustained in the bomb  
6           blast, he traveled home to Slidell for a few weeks to see friends and family, but he knew he  
7           would certainly return to the war in order to complete the remainder of the tour of duty he  
8           and his comrades had begun; and

9           WHEREAS, the twenty-year-old soldier was part of a mounted patrol near Ghunday  
10          Ghar on October, 13, 2010, when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by another  
11          roadside bomb, but this time, Specialist Powell was mortally wounded in the attack and died  
12          in Kandahar while receiving medical treatment; and

13          WHEREAS, while the family, friends and loved ones of Specialist Powell were  
14          stricken by his sacrifice, they were also filled with pride over knowing a man willing to  
15          serve and fight for his country.

16          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
17          does hereby extend its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of United States  
18          Army Specialist Matthew Powell for his great service and sacrifice on behalf of his country  
19          and their unbearable loss.

20          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
21          family of Specialist Matthew Powell.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Marionneaux

SR No. 43

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Powell.